

## REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the application. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 25-28 and indicating that claims 2-5, 17-19, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant does not necessarily agree or acquiesce with each statement in the Office action as to why these claims are allowed or allowable. Instead, Applicant respectfully submits that the language within the claims speak for themselves.

Claims 2-15, 17-28, and 31-33 are now pending in the application.

Claims 2, 10, 17, and 32 have been rewritten in independent form, and, accordingly, claims 2, 10, 17, and 32 (and all dependent claims therefrom) should be in condition for allowance.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 16, 29, 30, 34, and 35 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to refile all cancelled claims and contest the rejections thereof in one or more subsequent applications.

Applicant has further amended rejected dependent claims 6, 12-15, 20, 23, 24, 31, and 33 to change their dependency from a cancelled claim to a claim that has been rewritten into independent and allowable form. Accordingly, claims 6, 12-15, 20, 23, 24, 31, and 33 (and all dependents therefrom) should also now be in condition for allowance.

The claim amendments have rendered moot all of the examiner's rejections to the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and issue a notice of full allowance for the application.

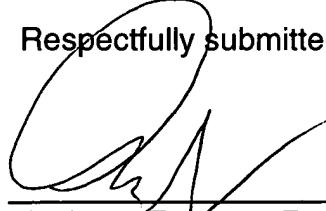
## CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned directly at (314) 726-7502.

Applicant believes that he does not owe any fee in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicant does owe any fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,  
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